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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/754,796	01/04/2001	Krystyna Roslan-Szulc	PK1201T1	3261

7590 03/06/2002

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EXAMINER

WILSON, JOHN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3732

DATE MAILED: 03/06/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/754,796	ROSLAN-SZULC, KRYSTYNA
	Examiner John J. Wilson	Art Unit 3732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 January 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This claims appears to be a literal translation, and as such, contains errors of form, for example, numeral used within a claim must be placed between parentheses. It is believed that the "a/o" is intended to be "%". "covering of operative dental", "simultaneously holding a positive dimensional tolerance", "an axis cutting through its lateral side in a plane of a roll" and "creating flat symmetrical hinged ends at the elongated elastic sleeve on a side of an inserting hole" are examples of poor grammar. Also, "an axis cutting through its" is unclear as to what "its" refers to. Applicant must check the entire claim and place it in proper U.S. form.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eisner et al in view of Stearns and Curry. Eisner shows an elastic protective covering 10 made of a thermoshrinkable material, column 9, lines 15-25. The specific tolerance used is an obvious

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matter of choice in the degree of a known parameter to one of ordinary skill in the art looking to find the best match for the intended instrument. Further the tolerance that the sleeve may make with an inferentially claimed instrument is an obvious matter of choice in the use of the sleeve with an inferentially claimed element. Eisner does not show an elliptical shape. Stearns shows a non-round cross section, see Fig. 2. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Eisner to include a non-round shape as shown by Stearns in order to better fit the intended instrument. The specific shape used is an obvious matter of choice in shape to the skilled artisan looking to best match the shape of the intended instrument. The above combination does not show hinged ends. Curry shows hinged ends 9, 10, see Fig. 5. It would be further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the above combination to include hinged ends as shown by Curry in order to better cover the instrument. Further an axis creating a hinge is not actually claiming hinged ends. To designate an axis that may create a hinge if chosen to do so is an obvious matter of choice in the intended use of a known structure to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Specification

The specification, as with the claim, appears to be a literal translation and should be checked and placed in proper U.S. form.

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Response to Arguments

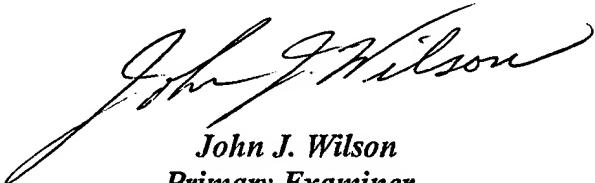
Applicant's arguments filed January 8, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Stearns does not teach the combination, however, the suggestion in Stearns is in the solving of the problem of fitting a sleeve to an instrument by matching the shape. As such Stearns solves the same problem and is therefore suggestive. The specific shape used to solve this problem would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art looking to match the shape of the instrument. That Curry requires an additional element, adhesive, does not obviate the showing of the structure used to meet the claim language. The hinged ends of Curry are for the purpose of folding to form, from a blank, a shape that better fits the instrument. One of ordinary skill in the art looking to solve the problem of using a blank to form a better fitting sleeve would find an obvious solution in Curry, and therefore, the combination is suggested and proper.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to John Wilson at telephone number (703) 308-2699.



John J. Wilson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3732

JJW
March 2, 2002
Fax (703) 308-2708